Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02198 291000Z ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-03 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13 /059 W

-----096260 291159Z /43

R 290754Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS TO USMISSION GENEVA INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7107 AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT AMEMBASSY RABAT

CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 2198

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, UNHCR, AG

SUBJ: SAHARAN REFUGEES AND UNHCR

REF: GENEVA 7256

- 1. THANKS YOUR REFTEL WHICH LEADS ME TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BACK-GROUND ON SUBJECT AND TO ASK YOU PUT SPECIFIC QUERY TO UNHCR.
- 2. SLIMANE HOFFMAN IS CLOSE ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE WITH MAJOR REPOSNSIBILITY FOR FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOA SAHARAN POLICY.
- 3. I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD BE PASSING ON TO UNHCR THE GOA OFFER TO ALLOW BASING OF UNHCR REP IN EITHER ALGIERS OR BECHAR WITH FREEDOM TO TRAVEL TO REFUGEE CAMPS IN TINDOUF WHENEVER AND AS OFTEN AS HE CHOSE (ACCOMPANIED BY REP OF ALGERIAN RED CRESCENT).
- 4. WHILE I SHARE UNHCR SKEPTICISM OVER THIS NEW GOA POSITIONS, IT DOES REPRESENT A FOOT IN DOOR WORTH PUTTING TO TEST AND I WOULD URGE UNHCR TO DO SO.

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- 5. EMBASSY CONTACTS AMONG ALGERIAN DOCTORS TREATING SAHRAOUI CHIL-DREN AT SPECIAL SUMMER CAMPS IN VICINITY OF ALGIERS ADVISE THESE CHILDREN SUFFERING IN LARGE NUMBERS FROM MALNUTRITION, TUBERCULOSIS AND RELATED ILLNESSES. THERE CAN BE NO ARGUMENT ABOUT HUMANITARIAN NEED FOR UNHCR-ADMINISTERED ASSISTANCE.
- 6. WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE USMISSION GENEVA DETERMINING WHETHER

UNHCR PLANS TAKE GOA UP ON THIS NEW OFFER. HASTEN TO ADD THAT DIRECT CONTACT BY UNHCR WITH GOA ON THIS MATTER WILL IN NO WAY COMPROMISE EMBASSY ALGIERS. PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED.HAYNES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

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Subject: SAHARAN REFUGEES AND UNHCR

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